

Legacy Church Partnership Class

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Coming in PDF form by email.

- Doctrinal Statement
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- Who’s at the Helm? : Ecclesiological Position for Male Biblical Eldership at Legacy Church
- Legacy Church ByLaws

Introduction from the pastors

You don't see soldiers dragging their field manuals with them into battle, but that is kind of what we had hoped for in this booklet. We wanted this to be a collection of strategic material you are able to return to and reference as you move forward. We didn't want to develop something that stopped as soon as someone became a partner with Legacy Church, but was of further help as one grew to look more and more like Jesus as a developing disciple, missionary, and leader.

We're resolved as the church to be on mission as a community rallied around the beautiful Gospel and this manual is aimed at helping you understand what we mean when we say words like "gospel", "community", and "mission" and how they all pertain to us and fit together. As we so often say, "We are a people by the Gospel for the Gospel", and this manual is to help you see and grow in what that means.

We look forward to serving you and walking alongside you as you grow in Jesus.

Dear Knoxville...

When we launched our church from the living room, the first thing we did was scribe a letter to the city we moved here to reach. I think it's fitting to place it here since we wrote it to you.

Dear Knoxville,

We thought it important to write you a letter - really a letter of commitment that you can use to remind us if we begin to miss the mark of why we began Legacy Church. There's probably no better people to keep us honest than the ones we promise to love and serve. Please hear them as our heart for you and this city.

We commit to showing you Jesus Christ to the best of our abilities. We commit that Legacy Church belongs to Jesus, not us.

We commit to telling you the truth about what Jesus says, even if it is hard and means some of you will never return. We commit to telling his story, not just ours, because it is more important and honestly, ours is boring without him in the center.

We commit to spending our money and time serving the parts of Knoxville and people of Knoxville that need Jesus' rescue.

We commit to gathering around a King, not a building or a service.

We commit to confronting the sin that tears you and your family apart, sometimes unbeknownst to you or your family.

We commit to taking chances and attempting things only possible with God's hand. We commit to making Jesus more famous than our church.

We commit to loving you, but declaring war on the things drawing you away from Jesus. We commit to doing our best to love and serve you.

We will all see our Maker and King soon. He will restore the whole world to the way it's supposed to be. He will make all things new, wiping away all tears, as we worship him together in his presence forever. This gives us great hope, as we sacrifice it all for your good and his glory. We love you Knoxville, but only because almighty God loved you first.

Thank you for hearing our heart.

Sincerely, The leadership of Legacy Church

Legacy's Story and History:

Legacy's story is nothing short of miraculous - from unlikely beginnings to the current day. It's miraculous not because we are special, but because Jesus in his kindness has chosen broken and sinful people like us to be a meaningful chapter in his plan to supernaturally build his church family here on Earth and give hope to the world through the power of the gospel.

We are prime evidence that God's unstoppable gospel grace for sinners truly does transform us from the inside out. Throughout the Legacy family are individual stories of the gospel giving new life and purpose to spiritually dead people. We are full of needy, broken, and rebellious people, yet in Christ are his Royal Children, Servants, and Missionaries. We are free. Finally free!

God has called us to be a church who gives hope to every last person in Knoxville - particularly those who are broken and burnt out from dead religion. As God continues Legacy's story, chapter by chapter, we would be honored to have you join us on this journey.

2009: God brings the core planting team fresh vision for what it could look like to plant a church that is centered on the gospel of grace and excited about the city. The team's desire is to do this in a college town in a region where the "nones" and "dones" are a growing demographic.

The core team moves to Knoxville and begins meeting with all kinds of people in bars and other “smoking sections” in Knoxville while dreaming and rallying a core team to start a gospel-centered church who loves Knoxville.

Legacy also is assessed and admitted this year into Acts29, a global church planting network. Legacy also partners this year with the Gospel Coalition and IX Marks, groups that strive towards both church reform and culture transformation.

2010: The core team, comprised of the two families making initial landfall, meet in a home as the first missional community of Legacy Church. Our first two missions are at a local bar and a local laundromat postured to serve the poor, student, and immigrant population of Knoxville.

2011: After continual growth in the living room, Legacy launches and holds its first public worship service at Cedar Bluff Middle School. God continues growing us in numbers and depth, while starting the process of moving us closer to downtown Knoxville and UT. We also grow this year to add a couple more missional communities.

2013-14: God moves Legacy to West High School, as he uses us to plant a college ministry on UT’s campus. Legacy’s missional communities (COMs: Communities on Mission) are multiplying around Knoxville and campus and are developing depth.

This year, Legacy also launches its Church Planter and Pastoral Residency, comprised of six men hopeful to either lead a church plant or serve as an elder in one.

2015: God brings together a beautiful partnership between Legacy Church and Campus Outreach. God’s goodness in fulfilling our vision to reach college campuses around the region is vividly seen. Campus Outreach is one of the most powerful tools that God is using on college campuses throughout the world.

This year we add a few more missional communities and expand our reach west and southward. God continually grows Legacy in West High School as we begin to look for a more permanent facility to be leveraged for the good of the community around it.

2016: Legacy sends its first two church planting candidates through the Acts29 assessment as we look forward to planting in the future. This year we celebrate our 5th birthday, a milestone less than 15% of church plants see.

This is also the year Campus Outreach replaces our initial campus presence in their first official semester, focusing on incoming freshman and the fraternities and sororities.

2017: We plant our first church, Legacy Farragut, in the western edge of Knox County. This is our first plant, sending a healthy team with a love for the suburbs of Knoxville.

Legacy continues to grow and search for a future home within what we have grown to call “Central City” a 5K from the UT campus in all directions comprising just over 20 square miles.

Reasons to Become A Church Partner

“People join churches by the consent of the church, and they resign by the consent of the church. That is to say, a person cannot walk up to a church and say, “I’m a member now.” Yes, church membership is “voluntary” insofar as Jesus does not bind us to choose one church rather than another, but he does bind us to choosing some church.”¹

- Noteworthy is that Legacy makes a slight distinction between church “membership” and church “partnership”.
 - Semantically, they are almost identical, yet we believe that all Christians are already “members” of God’s corporate and universal church.
 - *Partnership makes a distinction between large universal church and local church.* We are members of the grand church *and* we are partners with local churches.
 - We don’t freak out on people saying the wrong word, but want to develop a culture where *partnership* (investing and owning) is reflected.

The amount of evidence for church membership/partnership in the Bible is great, but we’ll hit the big points here and recommend future reading for you if this is an area of interest.

- Partnering with a local church shows the world that the Gospel **changes** us.
 - When local churches are full of people who have been set free from slavery to sin and now are slaves of righteousness², it will show the world that the gospel really is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.³ This salvation involves living a radically new life of holiness and obedience to God.
 - Partnering with a local church brings a *distinction between those close to Jesus and those far from Jesus*. Without partnership there is a fuzzy middle that can confuse those outside of Jesus.
 - In fact, most of Knoxville (75-85%) claims to be a follower of Jesus, yet only a small percentage (15-18%) attend a local church service of some kind. You can see how this can be confusing.
- Partnering with a local church shows the world that the Gospel **unites** us.
 - When a local church is comprised of Christians who are united in faith and love, that church demonstrates that the gospel has power to unite people who would otherwise be divided.
 - It shows that the gospel is not limited to any ethnic or social group⁴, but is rather a universally relevant message that calls *all* people to repent and offers eternal

¹ Leeman, Jonathan, *Church Discipline: How the Church Protects the Name of Jesus* (2012; Wheaton, Ill., Crossway) page 116

² Romans 6:15-23

³ Romans 1:16

⁴ 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

life to everyone who believes in Christ.⁵

- Partnering with a local church allows **church leadership** to serve us faithfully.

Hebrews 13:17: *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

1 Peter 5:1–5: *So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

- Without local church partnership/membership, there is no way for local church pastors to know to whom they are accountable.
 - As pastors, we can pastor anyone in the city as part of our calling, yet our *role* is to be responsible for a select group of invested believers who have yielded this level of oversight to local church leadership.
- Without local church partnership/membership, there is no way for the Christian to know who their pastoral leadership may be.
- Without local church partnership/membership, there is no way for church leadership to Biblically honor church discipline.

- Partnering with a local church allows **the church to serve each other** faithfully.

Acts 6:1–6: *Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”*

- The proximity of the local church doesn’t preclude us from serving those outside of the local church, yet it places a responsibility to serve those among us.
- When the local church serves well within it’s close proximity, it shows the world a portrait of how Jesus serves us. It also shows the value and care we take with the people Jesus’ blood purchases.

⁵ Special thanks to IXMarks (9marks.org) for their great work on church membership/discipline.

How to Become a Partner

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to explore Legacy as you learn whether you want to become a part of our family on mission with the gospel! Here is the simple process:

Attend partnership class ⇒ meet with a pastor ⇒ work through partnership covenant

Consider this a dialogue between you and the church leadership in which you discover

- (1) what Legacy believes,
- (2) what makes us different/unique from your last church experience (if you've had one),
- (3) why we do some things the way we do.

After the class portion of this dialogue, we scale it towards a more intimate moment between you and a Legacy pastor, specifically to ask/answer key questions and unpack the covenant further.

After this meeting, it'll be up to you to consider covenant partnership.

The Plan Ahead of Us...

Week 1: The Gospel: God's Really Good News

- "What does it mean at Legacy to be "Gospel-centered"?"
- Why do we need good news?
- "How could I fit in and become a part of the Legacy family?"
- Our Identities: This is who we are now
- Example: Where does Legacy reveal Gospel centrality on Sunday morning?
- Gospel Resources for Further Study

Week 2: Community: He Made Us Family

- What are my gifts to serve others with?
- What does serving others practically look like?
- Where do I need help growing within community?

Week 3: Mission: We Are Sent Back Out

- Who are my non-Christian neighbors in normal life (neighborhood, work, and play)?
- How can I get involved in God's global mission?
- What is a missionary and why does the pastor keep calling me one?

Week 4: Partnership: We're All In...Join Us!

- The church is committed to you: Here's how.
- I am committed to the church: Here's how
- Next Steps



Partnership Class

Week 1: The Gospel: “We are a people BY the Gospel for the Gospel.”

“What does it mean at Legacy to be “Gospel-centered”?”

Being Gospel-centered is something you’ve probably heard or sensed while attending Legacy. The phrase “Gospel-centered” is becoming a bit of a fad in many places. In fact, I fear many people use this phrase without living in the freedom of what it really means to be centered on God’s good news.

Being Gospel-centered isn’t the same as being reformed in theology or even preaching the Gospel. It means something much more and we have built on Gospel centrality from day one.

- Gospel centrality means to center everything on the beauty of Jesus and what he has done for you. Absolutely everything. The Good News⁶ of God to mankind is our anchor.
- Whether it is preaching, discipleship, fellowship, community, partying, counseling, music, art, etc.... It is all centered around the extravagant news of what God has done for us.

Why do we need good news?

- Our “factory setting” is to sin and not desire God or nurture any affections for God. We gained this from our first parents and will pass it on down the line for generations.
- We are typically tempted and good at centering just about everything on either what we want or what we can do for God rather than what He has done for us.⁷
 - In other words, we are anthropocentric (man centered) in our living rather than theocentric (God centered) and this leads to both shame and pride.⁸
- Most world religions operate on this understanding. Performance brings a result. Good performance brings blessing. Bad performance brings curse. Therefore, most performance is shame based and greed fueled.
 - Religion is man trying to ascend to God. Christianity is Jesus descending to man. Religion is based on our actions and work. Christianity is founded upon Jesus’ action and work.
- God has initiated a relationship with us that we can freely enjoy. All work to impress God can stop as Jesus pleased His Father and has imputed this righteous credit to us.

⁶ Romans 5:8, 2nd Corinthians 5:21, 1st Timothy 1:5

⁷ Romans 8:2

⁸ Matthew 23

Religion	Christianity
<i>"I obey therefore I'm accepted."</i>	<i>"I'm accepted, therefore I obey."</i>
<i>Motivation is based on fear, shame, or greed.</i>	<i>Motivation is based on grateful joy.</i>
<i>I obey God in order to get things from God.</i>	<i>I obey in order to get God himself.</i>
<i>When things go wrong, I am mad at God or myself, since I believe that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life.</i>	<i>When things go wrong, I struggle, but I know all my punishment fell on Jesus and that God will care for me as a Father in my trial.</i>
<i>When I am criticized, I am furious or devastated because it is critical that I think of myself as a "good person." Threats to that self-image must be destroyed at all costs.</i>	<i>When I am criticized, I struggle, but it is not essential for me to think of myself as a "good person." My identity is not built on my record or performance but on Christ's.⁹</i>

"How can I fit in and become a part of the Legacy family?"

- We believe the primary identity we wear to connect to each other well is the identity purchased by Jesus. In other words, *it's not the similarity we share on the outside, but the similarity we share on the inside.*
 - Certainly you're used to connecting and fitting in with particular groups due to interests, age, history, experience, personality, hobbies, etc...
 - This is where the church is far different than any group you have been in.
 - Sure, there can be deep connection according to things on the outside, but there is a basic and fundamental connection we share with each other that springs from Jesus.
- The similarity or common trait we rally around in the church is Jesus. In Him we all connect regardless of skin color, economic status, history, education, etc...
- Your identity is freshly defined by your Father God and who he says you are through Jesus' work for you.¹⁰ Once and for all, both now and forever, you are who God says you are: His child, with a place at the family table.¹¹ We belong to him as a free gift of grace. We cannot earn him or lose him.

⁹ Ephesians 2:8, Chart by Tim Keller.

¹⁰ Galatians 3:26

¹¹ Romans 8:17

Our Identities: This is Who We Are Now!¹²

Before Jesus: Slavery	Now with Jesus: Freedom
<p align="center"><i>Idol Worshipers:</i> we worshipped created things like money, sex, power, jobs, image, people, comfort, etc.</p>	<p align="center"><i>God Worshipers:</i> We are now worshippers of the one, true God. We are free to enjoy him in all aspects of life.</p>
<p align="center"><i>Children of the Devil:</i> we believed that we could do what we wanted as long as it made us happy. We were not bound to truth.</p>	<p align="center"><i>Kids of the King:</i> We are now Royal Sons and daughters of Father God. The church is comprised of our brothers and sisters. We are family.</p>
<p align="center"><i>Teachers of Self:</i> The only authority we had was our self. We were enslaved to our selfish desires and preferences.</p>	<p align="center"><i>Disciples:</i> We are die-hard learners of Jesus who want to sit at his feet; we will suffer to be just like him.</p>
<p align="center"><i>Slaves of Self:</i> Though we had an outward morality and some good behavior, we are in bondage.</p>	<p align="center"><i>Servants:</i> We are servants of Jesus and others - we count others more important than our self.</p>
<p align="center"><i>Self-Promoters:</i> Whether in person or on social media, we were ultimately concerned only for our self.</p>	<p align="center"><i>Missionaries:</i> We are ambassadors of Christ called to make him known in normal, everyday life.</p>

Example: Where does Legacy reveal Gospel centrality on Sunday morning?

- **Communion:** We make sure to lead people to the communion table after the sermon as if it's the final point of application in the sermon.
 - This keeps us aimed in the right direction as preachers.
 - This allows us to center our response time around the Gospel: what God has done for us in breaking himself and pouring out His blood for our new identity.
- **Preaching / Teaching:** We make sure that the hero and center of every single sermon is Jesus. Highlighting God's answer to our problem is the goal.
 - We want people to leave saying, "Look what God has done" rather than "Look what I must do." The latter makes us the potential hero.
 - Being Gospel centered means more than preaching the Gospel. It means being defined by it in our growth as well as our salvation.
 - No one preaches from the Legacy pulpit unless they are sure to make Jesus the center and hero of our lives. Our job is to show how the passages of the Bible

¹² John 4:23, 1st John 3:2, John 13:35, 2 Corinthians 6:4, Matthew 28:19-20

reveal Jesus ' work to save and grow us.

- Teaching you how to behave better is not the win. Teaching how Jesus behaved in our stead and showing how we can respond in thankful joy is the win.
 - **Song:** We are careful to select songs that highlight the work of God in Jesus and allow us to respond in trust, worship, adoration, reflection and joy.
 - We are not caught up on when the song was written or who wrote it as much as where the center of the song may be.
 - Jesus is not just the hero of our sermons, but of our songs as well.
 - **Fellowship:** Because of our new identity, we now have much in common with those around us, so fellowship itself is also centered on the Gospel.
 - Encouraging others towards truth and life, and making guests feel hospitable is Gospel centered in the fact that God encourages us when we needed it most and showed great hospitality towards us in Jesus.
 - Hospitality is best defined as “grace extended to outsiders.”
 - **Service:** Because of our new identity, we are also able to spend ourselves for the good of others, showing how in God’s good news to us, one was spent serving us.
 - Volunteering for service is not something we do to “get stuff done” and keep the machine running. It is a statement on how we value investing in others at a personal cost.
 - We drive people to serve, but more for their heart change and joy than for the church entity to be easier and well stocked with volunteers.
-

This week, we went over how the gospel of God transforms ourselves from the inside out, making us a new person with new desires.

In the next Chapters, we will go over how the gospel transform our relationships (community) and our purpose (mission).

Week 1: GOSPEL: Resources for Further Study

VIDEO

- <http://wearesoma.com/resources/watch/gospel-fluency/>
- This is a series of videos, and in my opinion some of the best in the world on this subject

AUDIO

- Jesus' People Are Gospel Bold:
<http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/jesus-people-are-gospel-bold/>
- Jesus' People Point to the Gospel:
<http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/jesus-people-point-to-the-gospel/>
- Gospel Adoption-From Slaves to Sons:
<http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/gospel-adoption-from-slaves-to-sons/>
- The Gospel According to Hosea:
<http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/the-gospel-according-to-hosea/>
- Wartime Courier-The Missionary as Proclaimer:
<http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/wartime-courier-the-missionary-as-proclaimer/>

BOOKS

1. The Gospel, Ortlund
2. The Pursuit of Holiness, Bridges
3. Glory Hunger, Vassar
4. The Gospel for Real Life, Bridges
5. Counsel from the Cross, Fitzpatrick
6. Gospel Fluency, Vandersteldt
7. Gospel Wakefulness, Wilson
8. Note to Self, Thorn
9. Cross-Centered Life, Mahaney
10. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Ware
11. The Attributes of God- A.W. Pink
12. Desiring God, Piper
13. ESV Life Transformation Bible
14. Concise Theology, Packer
15. Christian Beliefs, Grudem
16. Systematic Theology, Grudem



Partnership Class

Week 2: Community: “We are a PEOPLE by the Gospel for the Gospel.”

Acts 2:42–47: They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Your experience is important...

- What one or two key words express what you liked best about your last church community experience? (*If you don’t have a church history, use your family’s connection and communal experience as a substitute?*)
- How deep did the community go? If there was depth, did it take time to build this?
- Was it an all-of-life, everyday thing, or a once or twice a week thing?
- Did everyone play an important role, or was it mainly driven by staff and leaders?
- Were you able to learn how God has gifted you by His Spirit to contribute and serve?

How God models community for us.

- Perhaps the most mysterious truth we have in scripture is what we call the Trinity. Our God is a triune God: one God in three persons.¹³
- Incredibly, our impulse for deep relationship is born in the Trinity.¹⁴
 - He is a communal God full of mutual respect, weight, and glory. God actively pursues the glory of community - with himself!¹⁵

¹³ Matthew 28:19

¹⁴ Genesis 1:26

¹⁵ John 17:21

- He designed us **similarly**: *to need and grow in community - with him and his family here on earth: the church.*
- The gospel unites relationships and destroys all barriers (economic, social, ethnic, etc...) ¹⁶ and people get along in the church who never would in the world.
 - Jesus has caused us to love Him **and** the community he died for. **To be Gospel driven means to be community anchored.**
 - **To live outside of community is inconsistent with Christianity and fails to represent God's intent as displayed in His word and in His Good News.**

"How Is Legacy different communally?" COM Groups

- Created by a communal God, **we deeply desire genuine relationships with his people in a committed environment even though we live in several environments.**
 - We are tempted to sharply separate our lives and relationships into different parts: work relationships, family relationships, school, church, etc.
 - By dividing our lives into different shoeboxes, it can be easy to forget that through the cross our Father provides us a central, spiritual, hub of relationships that fuel and connect all of the others. This happens in the church - the family of God.
- It can be tempting to think that Sunday Gatherings can substitute as the core of our relational connection.
- This is no doubt how a large percentage of believers build, but the trouble with this is that Sunday AM is...
 - ...not directly connected to a distinct mission where you are in the city.
 - ...not fluid and in various environments where you can build deeply with others.
 - ...not typically a place where your giftings can be utilized as thickly or frequently.
 - ...not typically a place where you can be known deeply by those around you.
 - ...not typically a place where those far from Jesus feel they can relax and be free.
 - ...not typically a place where there is much time before and after to truly connect.
- At Legacy, your central hub of relationships that bind you together, root you, and send you happens in our COM's (Communities on Mission).

¹⁶ Ephesian 2:14

- We built this church with the idea of the living room doing the work the sanctuary can not. This is how Legacy was planted.
-

COM Defined: A *Community on Mission* is a small, reproducing family of missionary disciples sent as worshippers of Jesus who make other worshippers of Jesus in normal everyday life in Knoxville.

- To clarify, a COM is not primarily: A small group, care group, Bible study, weekly meeting, social group, or activist group, though all of these elements may be evident.
 - Rather, a COM is all of life. It is *rhythmic* and built around everyday life, *not an event* that occurs on a certain day.
 - COMs are constructed with the idea of being Gospel-intentional in your ordinary rhythms both as individuals and corporately.
 - In other words, they are to help you be a missionary in your own backyard and cubical. Mission is easier and more effective in plurality.
 - They are mobile and invested in the city as we *grow* together as missionaries.
 - They are built to scale into smaller and more intimate settings for deeper building and accountability.
- Legacy isn't a church WITH missional communities, we are a church OF missional communities, gathered together for a family meal on Sunday mornings.
 - Gathering on Sunday and scattering during the week. We never stop being *church*.
 - Our hope and dream is that city reaching, salvations, discipleship, and deep care occur within the confines of the community on mission, not on Sunday mornings alone as carried out by the staff.
 - Our hope and dream is that Knoxville is changed by the living rooms of Legacy more than the auditoriums of Legacy.

The COM's Postures:

UPWARD: A healthy COM has an upward dimension where we experience God and learn to worship and live by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- We worship together in study, prayer, communion, meals together, deep encouragement, and helping each other refocus our lives towards our King.
- This is the posture we take when we examine our idols and areas of unbelief and apply the Gospel to each other in light of the Bible.
- PRACTICALLY: How does this play itself out...
 - As groups are different there's great diversity here, but most stay close to the sermon series, breaking down some of the points for deeper discussion.
 - Study and prayer take the center stage as discussion helps unfold the topics of study. Communion can also happen during moments like this.

INWARD: A healthy COM also has an inward dimension where we experience each other in having fun, challenging each other, crying and suffering together, celebrating together, and reconciling as we sometimes collide.

- We live real life together through the up's and down's. We both party and have fun, as well as go through the trials of life together. All of it - just like a real family!
- PRACTICALLY: How does this play itself out...
 - DNA groups are scaled down and sex specific where much deeper building, struggling, partying and growing can occur.
 - **D**iscovering, **N**urturing, and **A**pplying are driven deeper in times like this.
 - Birthdays, Engagements, Moving, New Babies, Passed Tests, etc... There are always moments to celebrate God's various graces to us.
 - We should out-party the world. Our celebrations are a reflection of our thankfulness and joy over what God has done.
 - Hospitals, tragedies, deep losses, etc... There are also moments to mourn and serve each other when God's grace is less to enjoy the moment but more to endure the moment.
 - Again, our sacrifice and service of each other in hellish moments are a reflection of how Jesus served us in our most difficult time.

OUTWARD: A healthy COM also has an outward dimension, where we are missionaries *together* towards a our broken city that Jesus loves. This is the posture where we extend love.

- It's not only selfish but also unjust to hoard the hope that's within us.
- The Gospel of grace has not truly been tasted until it is producing in you a compassionate and bold desire to go and share it with others.
- PRACTICALLY: How does this play itself out...
 - Whether this occurs in your neighborhood, or alongside an existing mission towards the city, our outward posture is where we extend God's goodness to others in a tangible way.
 - Serving single moms, ex-convicts, your 18 neighbors, the apartment complex next door, international students, etc...
 - A COM's mission to the city will reflect the heart and hands of the community as well as the need of the city. This will be explained in the next module.
- Your best growth will happen here. This is how Jesus chose to grow his disciples.
- Your best connection will happen here. This is how Jesus binds community close.
- As these postures (spheres) align, communities lean more towards health.

How do I fit in here? Join a COM

- The *honest* news is that you'll need to have realistic expectations. It won't be easy and you won't always get your preferences met. It will require heavy social investment.
- Although we love Sunday AM (and even see that as a vital mission to a religious city) the vast majority of our family life happens in our Communities on Mission.
- COM groups also allow the best venue for our *spiritual gifts* to be discovered and utilized.
 - Although this can also occur to a degree on Sunday mornings, the best way to walk this out is where you have the best, deepest, and most frequent connections.
 - We believe as a church that every gift is still empowered by God's Spirit today, including the "miraculous" gifts.¹⁷
 - We also believe that every Christian is gifted, not every Christian has the same gifting complexion, and these gifts come upon salvation.¹⁸
 - There are lists of some of these gifts in the Bible¹⁹ but because there is overlap in

¹⁷ See Doctrinal Statement for more references

¹⁸ See Doctrinal Statement for more references

¹⁹ Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12-14, Ephesians 4:11, etc...

the lists and some gifts listed that don't appear in other places, there are surely more gifts than what we see.

- Hospitality and the interpretation of dreams could be examples

Questions to consider before you meet with a pastor...

- Where do you feel you are gifted, even if that gift isn't as strong as in other people?
- Which gifts do you pray for?
- Which gifts might you have but aren't sure of and maybe a bit afraid to try?

This week, we went over how the gospel of God brings us together in more ways than just proximity. We are a people by the Gospel and this drives us towards each other deeply. We saw how Legacy does this in our Communities on Mission.

In the next Chapters, we will go over how the gospel transform our posture to the city (mission). We will then look at covenanting with a church and what that means exactly.

Week 2: COMMUNITY: Resources for Further Study

VIDEO

- <http://wearesoma.com/resources/featured/walking-in-the-spirit/>
 - Jeff Vandersteldt speaks well to what it means to walk in the Spirit.
- <http://wearesoma.com/category/resources/watch/>
 - Soma Church in the Northeast helps by showing what these communities look like.

AUDIO

- Any sermon is our series on Acts: Jesus' People: Moving and Multiplying
- Change is a Community Project
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/change-is-a-community-project/>
- Gifts: Miraculous Healings and Fatih
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/miraculous-healings-faith/>
- Gifts: Prophecy and Various Languages
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/the-gifts-of-prophecy-various-languages/>
- The "Back of House" Gifts
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/back-of-house-gifts/>
- Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts I
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/holy-spirit-spiritual-gifts-part-1/>
- Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts II
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/holy-spirit-spiritual-gifts-part-2/>

BOOKS

1. A Meal With Jesus, Chester
2. Saturate, Jeff Vandersteldt
3. Community, Brad House
4. Fight Club, Dodson
5. Building a Discipling Culture, Breen
6. Tangible Kingdom Primer, Halter
7. Missional Community Life, Porterbrook
8. Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts, Storms
9. Convergence, Storms
10. Systematic Theology, Grudem
11. The Holy Spirit, Sinclair Ferguson



Partnership Class

Week 3: Mission: “We are a people by the Gospel FOR the Gospel.”

- In Week 1 we discussed the Gospel as the root of our “being” and “doing” and found that the word “Gospel” can often be misapplied. The same problem holds true for “mission”.
- The words “mission”, “missional” and “missionary” can be empty freight.
 - What is the first thing to come to your mind when you hear the word “missionary”?
 - What is it that missionaries do exactly? What does it take to be a missionary?

John 17:15–18: I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

- As a church, we believe that we are sent into this world as Jesus was sent.
 - This means like Jesus, we go, incarnate, sacrifice, love, spend time, enter others’ stories, and even sacrifice our preferences for the good of others.
 - Jesus showed us what it meant to cross even great boundaries, leaving comfort and glory to stoop and serve those who were in great need.
 - In fact, Christmas is the proof of God’s sentness to us and a display of what our life must be to the world around us. We must leave comfort and enter brokenness.
- Being a missionary because “it’s the right thing to do” or because “it’s what you are supposed to do” is aligned with **moralism** or law based performance. Being a missionary from the joy that came by Jesus doing so for us is centered in grace.
 - Our heart is to empower all Christians in this missionary identity.²⁰ In our heart to build missionary disciples, we want them to be anchored in their identity - one who is loved, not one fighting to be loved.
- We agree with Charles Haddon Spurgeon’s sentiment when he famously asserts that **“every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.”**
 - You may be a poor missionary, but a missionary nonetheless. The Bible has no other category for you.

²⁰ Ephesians 4:12-13

- All those who were reached by the Sent One are sent themselves.
 - Just as we teach that leadership is a part of our discipleship, we teach that missional activity, fueled and compelled by Gospel truth, is a part of discipleship.
 - If you want to grow to look like Jesus and be a disciple, mission will forever be a part of your identity. *This is why we call ourselves a “missional” church.*
- NOTE: Being an incarnational or sent church means we permeate culture and live in close proximity with the culture, but we don’t make the classic errors or...
 - Taking on the cultures values. We lose our “salt” or our life giving and preserving effect when we show our lives to be unchanged.²¹
 - Why is failing here so tempting?
 - Living and being without saying. We understand that salvation comes by hearing the Gospel through ears of faith. Faith comes by hearing.²²
 - Why is failing here so tempting?
- Being a missionary is not just for varsity or extroverted Christians, but for all of us. It’s simply entering your boringly predictable, normal routines, places, rhythms, and relationships with great Gospel intentionality.
 - We are not just intentionally drawn together by the Gospel, we are scattered outwardly to our different pockets of the city by the Gospel.
 - This is quite literally how the church grew in it’s earliest days as we see in the book of Acts. It exploded through *informal* missions activity from the church’s “cheap seats” - ordinary people.

“Not only the apostles but every Christian did evangelism — and they did so endlessly. Numerous passages indicate that every Christian was expected to evangelize, follow up, nurture, and teach people the Word. This happened relationally — one person bringing the gospel to another within the context of a relationship.” Tim Keller, Center Church

- **How does this really look for me individually?** Answer: Take a look at the most repeatable and routine rhythms and venues you find yourself in and ask yourself, “**what would it look like to bring Gospel intentionality to this?**”
 - Creating Moments: Legacy began not through flyers or tactics to get people to come to a service, but by *developing routines and creating Gospel moments*.
 - Consider your neighbors: Who are your co-workers, kids’ friends’ parents, favorite restaurant employees, professors, baristas, the barstool next to you, etc... Who do you see and have at least a modicum of a predictable routine with?

²¹ Matthew 5:13-16

²² Romans 10:14-17

- **Learn and enter their story:** What do they worship? What is their story? Where is their pain? How do they see Jesus? What is broken?
- **Advance the relationship:** This means taking chances with certain moments and bringing them into your life and circles of friends.
 - Jeff Vandersteldt said at a recent conference, “*You know you are someone’s friend when they have introduced you to all of their friends.*”
- So far, we’ve discussed *individual mission*, but how does our church community help us in mission? What does it look like for an entire church to be on mission together?
 - Is a church *on mission* simply a bunch of different missions contained in a bunch of different people? Yes and no. We’re also intentional *in plurality*.
- Last week we looked at our **COM Groups (Communities on Mission)** as a venue of connection for us as Christians united by the Gospel. This week, we see that being connected to others brings great help and demonstration to the city.
 - 1. We develop new relationships around those we do life with already.
 - Many people you know will have great moments with those in your COM Group, maybe even more intimate and relational moments than you’re able to achieve at the time.
 - This “**cross pollination**” is an effective means by which God draws people to himself. Secondary and tertiary relationships can even be stronger than the primary relationship many times.
 - The more your “neighbors” know and relate to those you’re in community with, the less the viability of that mission rests on your relationship alone.
 - 2. We cooperate in group mission so the city can see Jesus through our connection.²³
 - When the city sees us collide and reconcile, celebrate and mourn, gather and sacrifice for each other, and even love deeply - it sees a picture of Jesus. No other group is able to do this well.
 - Our inter-community chemistry and dynamics are a witness to what only God can accomplish in us.
 - It reveals the Gospel’s power to change us and rearrange our preferences for the benefit of others.
 - It directs their attention to forgiveness, grace, and love.
 - By being on mission together, *we display what we say*. Our lives together give demonstration of our message.
 - 3. We’re able to accomplish more in plurality than individually.²⁴

²³ John 13:34-35

²⁴ 1 Corinthians 12

- The sum is more than the parts when it comes to mission. We're able to leverage more strength, put courage into each other, and learn from each other.
- **Our gifts are** also able to balance each other and contribute to an overall direction and goal.

PRACTICALLY: Each Legacy COM Group is arranged around a mission to the city that is initiated and designed by the group itself. This may be a neighborhood or a ministry already working in the city.

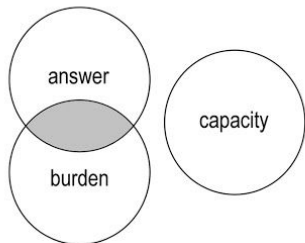
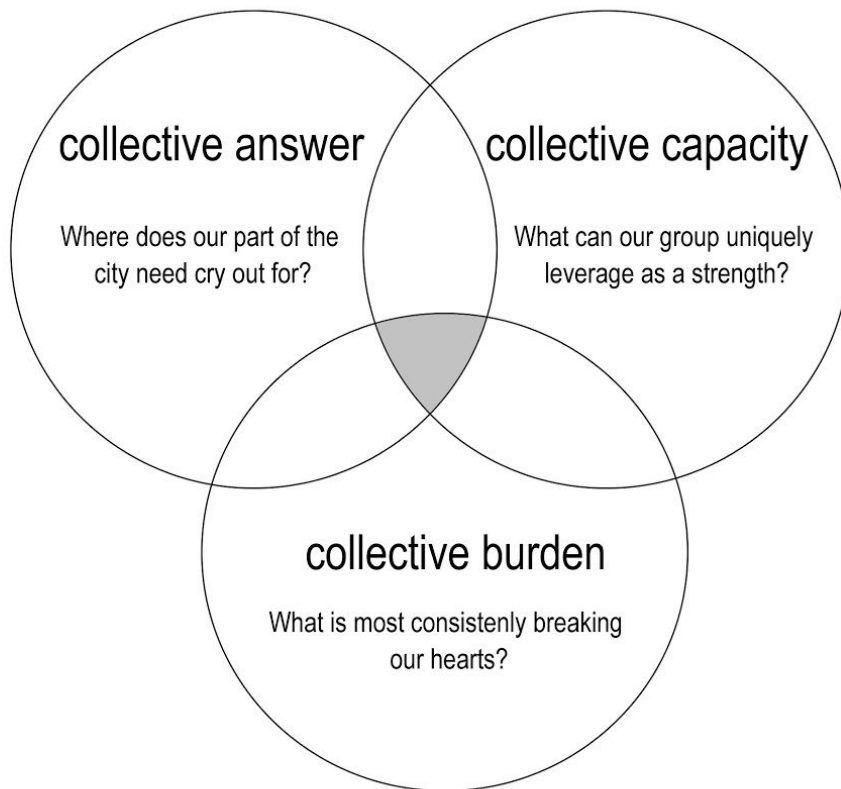
- **Each community's mission will have differing requirements and rhythms. Some will share missions, and some will be very different and require certain skill sets.**²⁵
- Legacy's leadership is primarily focused on coaching the leaders (and co-leaders) on how to drive mission successfully. We're not interested in prescribing the missional direction.
- We have learned over time however the certain truths that give a COM group's missional choice a high percentage of effectiveness.
 - We find that the best way to drive mission forward is to take into consideration...

COLLECTIVE ANSWER: The City's Need: If the city had a voice, what would it ask for? Where would it need help? Some areas and people groups are "bleeding" more than others.

COLLECTIVE BURDEN: The Group's Heartbeat: What does the COM Group talk about or dream about when it comes to mission? What are obvious directions that appear?

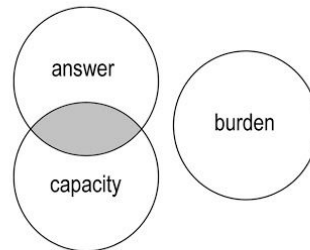
COLLECTIVE CAPACITY: The Group's Ability: What gifts or strengths can this group leverage towards the city? No group is the same and each will have a unique set of skills or experiences.

²⁵ An example of an exclusive COM might be to artists or runners.

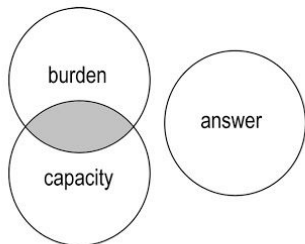


A community with great city understanding and a heavy burden and no capacity to meet the need.
(Major symptoms: burned out, condemned)

A community with great city understanding and high capacity, yet no deep hunger to meet the need.
(Major symptoms: disinterest, unintentionality)



A community with a deep burden and high capacity to meet a certain need, yet the city isn't asking for it.
(Major symptoms: wasted resource, frustrated people)



Week 3: MISSION: Resources for Further Study

VIDEO

- <http://wearesoma.com/category/resources/watch/>
 - Soma Church in the Northeast helps by showing what COM Groups look like.

AUDIO

- Any sermon in our series on Acts: Jesus' People: Moving and Multiplying
- Any sermon in our series called Sent Church
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/series/sent-church/>
- Jesus' People Experience Mission
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/jesus-people-experience-mission/>
- Jesus' People Have A Mission
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/jesus-people-have-a-mission/>
- Missional Mess
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/missional-mess/>
- Missional in Philadelphia: Don't Give Up
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/missional-in-philadelphia-didnt-give-up/>

BOOKS

1. Systematic Theology, Grudem
2. Saturate, Vandersteldt
3. Center Church, Keller
4. A Meal With Jesus, Chester
5. According to Plan, Goldsworthy
6. Tangible Kingdom, Halter
7. Evangelism, Porterbrook
8. Missional Community, Porterbrook
9. Master Plan of Evangelism, Coleman
10. When Helping Hurts, Corbett
11. Toxic Charity, Lupton
12. Commentary on Acts, Constable
13. 30 Years Among the South Sea Cannibals, Paton



Partnership Class

Week 4: Covenant Partnership

- This session we'll look at how the church is committed to you and how you as a partner can be committed to the church.
 - At Legacy, our church covenant is a *mutual commitment*.
- Why a covenant? This is the obvious question right? Why not just show up? Why not just let attendance be the factor that decides my involvement with the church? This is what we'll answer today.
- While people covenanting to the church as “members” or “partners” isn't explicitly stated in Scripture, it is implicit throughout the Bible, as God sovereignly makes us one covenant people, sealed with one Holy Spirit.²⁶
 - Simply put, we cannot be a covenant people and refrain from covenanting with each other. It is inconsistent to be covenanted to Jesus but not His family.
 - Covenanting as members or partners of a local church is simply formalizing biblical truths that already exist: you are a member of God's covenant community; you are pursuing God, each other, and mission; and you are agreeing to do that within the biblical context of an individual, local church.
- Notice that we keep using the word partnership and not membership. It seems like a slight distinction, but for one to be a member in the body of Christ they need *only* be a Christian.
 - Christians are already members of the body universally and the “front door” to be a part of Jesus' body is dictated by him to be by grace and through faith upon the repentance of sin.²⁷
 - Partnership with a local church is, for us, the formalization of what is already a reality - belonging and contributing to the covenant community of God.
- From the very beginning of our lives in Christ's family we were called to each other as well as to Christ.²⁸
 - Think of the fact that when we enter the world as babies, we don't just have a father, we also have mothers, brothers, sisters, cousins and other family as well.
 - The Gospel doesn't just save us; it saves us into community – into family. This communal aspect to our lives is an image of our God, who also expresses an

²⁶ 1 Corinthians, **Philippians 1:27**

²⁷ Ephesians 2:8

²⁸ 1 Timothy 5:1-2, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

eternal community we typically refer to as the Trinity.

- Even the leaders of Legacy exemplify life in community and not each of us unto ourselves as an independent island (see appendix: Ecclesiological Position for Male Biblical Eldership).
- Whether the Bible uses language referring to us as members of a structure²⁹ or a human body³⁰ or a family³¹, God is very clear in his view and intent for us to be connected in a local context where we are joined together on God's mission³².
- As a covenant community, we not only belong to each other but we have responsibilities to each other and are called to be Gospel oriented towards those in community.
 - The Bible tells us as covenant communities to care for each other³³, speak truth to one another³⁴, equip each other³⁵, and live out our faith together³⁶.
 - We are responsible to each other the same way my left foot has obligations to the right. If a piece of our body is missing, the rest of the body hurts as a result.
 - To summarize, we are a community of people born together by the Gospel for the purpose of propagating the Gospel as we image the Gospel among each other.

What is a covenant?

- The word "covenant" isn't really used as much anymore in American vernacular, but the concept is beautifully simple and important to God and therefore important to us.
 - It simply means a commitment either binding people together before God or with God. Palmer Robertson calls covenant a "*bond in blood, sovereignly administered*."³⁷ Like marriage, it's a solemn oath before God towards another.
 - We see examples of covenants between man and God all throughout the Bible as well as between individuals and groups.
 - Many times a covenant is formalized by a sign of some kind, whether it is rings in a marriage ceremony, animals cut in half, circumcision, a rainbow, or even the bloody cross itself.
 - In covenants, there are typically terms that each party carries out as they are obligated to each other.
- Some covenants, like those between God and mankind, are *unconditional*, and aren't broken based on actions by either party.

²⁹ 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

³⁰ Philippians 1:27

³¹ Romans 8:14-17

³² Hebrews 10:24-25

³³ 1 Corinthians 12:25

³⁴ Ephesians 4:25

³⁵ Ephesians 4:11-16

³⁶ 1 Thessalonians 2:9

³⁷ Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*

- On the other hand, virtually all covenants between people, including covenant partnership in Legacy Church and even the covenant of marriage³⁸ are *conditional*.
 - This means that the covenant is able to be broken if either side fails in keeping their commitment, and if they remain unrepentant about their failure.
 - However, as is the case even within marriage, the breaking of a covenant should never be a “first response.”³⁹

Why is formally covenanting with a local church so important?

- At this point it might be obvious that being connected in the local church community and engaging God’s mission within community is God’s plan, *but why so formal - why not allow this to happen organically?*
- We believe there is a false understanding of how the early church assembled and grew regarding its structure. Many today desire an “organic” model that sprawls without needless structure and parameters.
 - This posture views the early church as one without structure, beautifully springing forth naturally and with no conduit to restrain the power.
 - We agree that structure can get needless sometimes and overdone in many cases, but a better examination of the early church reveals a high level of structure.
 - “Organic” shouldn’t mean sloppy and without process or purpose to us. Look through a microscope at any biological sample or chemical process and you will witness God’s incredibly high structural insight and intent.
 - A truly “organic” church shouldn’t mean sloppy and chaotic, but ordered and with purpose.
 - An example of this is the early Acts church maintaining and keeping roles or lists of local members⁴⁰ and developing a process to better care for widows and serve the church.⁴¹
 - The early church was organic in the fact that growth was natural, and at the same time the organic nature yields order and purpose for the sake of unity, health, and Gospel propagation.
 - For Legacy Church, part of our order and purpose is covenant partnership just as is witnessed in the early church.
- Another functional reason we endorse local church partnership is the responsibility placed on the local shepherd to do a noble and faithful job of leading the flock and family of God.

³⁸ 1 Corinthians 7:15, Matthew 5:32

³⁹ Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5

⁴⁰ Acts 2:37-47, Romans 16:1-16

⁴¹ Acts 6:1-7

Hebrews 13:7,17: Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

- The author of Hebrews basically tells his readers “don’t be a pain in the butt to your leaders but consider their lives, imitate them, and submit to them because one day they will have to give an account to God for the job they did.”
 - The passage implies that the shepherd knows who he is leading. Conversely, the passage implies that the Christian knows who their pastor is.
- At Legacy Church, we have placed a high premium on such a serious calling as eldership and we see clearly that our calling involves accountability before God, that formal partnership allows us to know who we’re accountable for.
- As pastors we refuse to be accountable for people who see no value in commitment to the local body or who withhold their investment yet demand more from the church.
 - We see the Bible leading such a position. Of course we will love and convey the Gospel truth to anyone and everyone and love those when we can, but we see our accountability and responsibility for shepherding to implicate only partners.
- Finally, we desire to formalize and enact something *already true spiritually* to protect the body. Sounds odd, but a formal membership or partnership in a church facilitates church discipline in cases of unrepentant sin that can harm the body.
 - Paul dealt with this surgically in his pastoring of the church in Corinth regarding an unrepentant sinner who was indulging in sexual sin that was set to infect the rest of the church.⁴²
 - As leaders of Legacy, we vow to protect the precious families God has called to be in community and on mission with us by “*purging the evil person*” among us as Paul says. For a person to be set “*out*” of fellowship officially however, they would have needed to be “*in*” fellowship officially.
 - People slipping in and out capriciously make the job of the pastor impossible in church discipline and infiltrate the safe harbors of families in the body. Biblically, church discipline necessitates partnership and body involvement to make any sense to us at all.

⁴² 1 Corinthians 5

Week 4: COVENANT: Resources for Further Study

AUDIO

- Jesus is King in our Commitment
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/jesus-is-king-in-our-commitment-colossians-47-22/>
- Church Partnership
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/resources/sermons/church-partnership/>

ARTICLES

- Luke Thomas: Why I'm Signing on the Dotted Line
- <http://legacyknoxville.com/legacy-church-blog/why-im-signing-on-the-dotted-line/>
- Matt Smethurst: Submit to Jesus, Submit to His Bride
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/submit-to-jesus-submit-to-his-bride>
- Joey Cochran: I Am A Church Member
- https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/i_am_a_church_member
- IX Marks: Membership and Discipline
- <http://9marks.org/membership-discipline/>

BOOKS

1. What is A Healthy Church, Dever
2. Systematic Theology, Grudem
3. What is a Healthy Church Member, Anyabwile
4. Church membership: How the World Knows Who Belongs To Jesus, Horton
5. According to Plan, Goldsworthy
6. I Am A Church Member, Rainer
7. The Church and the Surprising Offense of God's Love, Leeman
8. Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus, Leeman
9. Church Discipline: How the Church Protects the Name of Jesus, Leeman
10. Biblical Theology, Lawrence